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The Young Men's Christian Association College,
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INVESTIGATION OF PHYSICAL WORK IN CHURCHES OF CHICAGO
AND SUBURBS.

GRADUATION THESIS

of

Lowell Hoxsey

Department of Physical Education

In Candidacy for the Diploma

Twenty - sixth Annual Commencement of

THE YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION COLLEGE

Chicago

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Cap. 2

Investigation of Physical Work in Churches of Chicago and Suburbs

Name of Church _____ Address _____

Minister _____ Address _____ Phone _____

Type of physical activities predominating (equipment, non-equipment, using other community facilities, Scouts, Camp-fire girls, summer camp, etc.)

Program of year's work _____

Supervision (Volunteer or employed) _____ Salary _____

Training _____

Description of equipment _____

Number and groups of people using privileges _____

Brief history of physical work _____

If work in past failed or is not meeting with expected results, name causes _____

In what ways is Cook County S. C. Assn. Cooperating? _____

Is the key to the eventual solution of physical problems in hands of State or International organizations? _____

Is the Y. M. C. A. Cooperating? How? _____

Should the Y. M. C. A. Cooperate? How? _____

Has a local community census or field survey been taken? _____

On file where? _____

Does the physical work call for immediate attention? _____ Why _____
Why not? _____

What other problems are more acute? _____

What is the attitude of your members on this question? _____

Attitude of the denomination at large? _____

What is the attitude of your seminary? _____

What is your personal attitude toward a physical program? _____

Upon whom does the responsibility for meeting the physical and recreational needs of the community belong? _____

If it is up to the church to meet these needs, what recommendations would you suggest for constructing an adequate program? _____

Remarks:

Please return to

Lowell Hoxsey

5315 Drexel Ave., Chicago, ILL.

The term physical work as used in this treatise embraces all of those forms of activity which administer to the conservation maintenance, and supply of bodily health and vigor. It has not been a long time that this subject would have received tolerance when placed in an atmosphere conceded so universally to deal solely with matters of the spirit. It is true that such symbols as baptism by immersion, bathing of the feet, shouting, and other physical demonstrations of the emotions were historic elements of religious ceremonies, but they were so because of their supposedly direct connection with a spiritual plan of deity and not because they were known to comply with physiologic or hygienic laws. The fact that these laws which govern physical life have come gradually and increasingly to receive the recognition of the church the last half century can only be attributed to the evolution of social processes in general. The growth of populations in cities was a chief factor in the precipitation of the problem.

With the vast numbers of young men and young women living in lonesome lodging houses away from the restraint of home influences and beset with all the temptations of an age of commercialized evil, the church found itself confronted with a new challenge. Young peoples societies were organized and they served to fill an important place in the social life of both sexes. As in the life of any organization, the question of activities is a predominant one, so among the young people through their societies and through the Sunday school as well, recreation and diversion were obtained through sociables, picnics, parties and various indoor and outdoor games.

Next came the demand for organized athletic teams largely in

the sphere of baseball and later in basketball. Here without doubt the church has been greatly misunderstood by her own membership perhaps far more than by those outside the church. In the first place, there were those who saw no justification for launching into such a secular scheme, and in the second place, the attendant and resulting evils were the cause of much doubting of the sincerity of the churches in continuing to countenance such a program. At this point in order to understand more clearly the fundamental standpoint as well as the limitations of the program of the church, we quote at some length from a book entitled "Christian Faith for Men of To-day" written by E. Alfred Cook:

"The primary work of the church as an organization is to maintain public worship and education in religion and morals, and it should undertake to organize and control particular forms of social improvement and service only when local circumstances make this advisable.--- It has been said that 'sound administration is the only sound philanthropy; other philanthropies are only plasters on sores.' It seems almost certain that when a fair approach is made to the best forms of social and political organization, carried out by and applied among people properly educated both intellectually and morally, there will be very little need of the many philanthropic enterprises which are now doing such a valuable and necessary work for even the most progressive and enlightened nations. When the time shall come, the influence of the church will be not less but greater than it is today. Its primary functions of maintaining religious worship and education will be just as necessary as ever, and they will be performed very much more thoroughly than now. But that time of ideal social organization is a good distance off still, although it seems

to be approaching with very hopeful rapidity; and in the meanwhile there are many works for the promotion of social welfare which must be maintained by voluntary effort actuated by the Christian spirit. Many churches have done a great deal to improve social conditions in their parishes by so-called "institutional" methods. They have established gymnasiums, baths, reading-rooms, employment agencies, and other instrumentalities for meeting the special needs of the community, which were not otherwise met. Aside from the immediate value of these things to the community, they have had this great value, that they promoted in the church the feeling of responsibility for and interest in, the rest of the community, and gave expression to the love for men which belonged to the religion; and they also proved to the community that the church was really interested in its highest welfare, and that its religion was genuine and valuable, and so attracted outsiders into the church and promoted the spirit of unselfishness in the community as a whole. There are and doubtless will for many years be many communities where such institutional methods would be a great blessing to both church and neighborhood, and it is of the first importance that each church shall feel its responsibility to express its spirit of love, and in every possible way promote the best physical and moral conditions in the place where its work is carried on. Still the institutional church should not be regarded as the normal one. If the political, commercial, industrial, educational, and sanitary conditions are what the state or city should make them, extreme needs, the provision for which we have been describing, should not exist, and of course there are many places where they do not. Where they do exist, they may very often be much better met by organiza-

tion working independently of any particular church, but supported by the interest labor, and money from various churches rather than by the efforts of churches individually. The Young Men's Christian Association is an institution for social service carried on by no particular denomination, and generally no particular church in a given place, but supported by the churches, and doing a work which in many cases it would be foolish and wasteful for the church to try to duplicate. Movements for temperance, political and social reform, etc., will generally best be carried on by people in whom the church has implanted the highest moral principles, in organizations independent of the church, where, if it were attempted to have such movements promoted by the church itself, disagreement and strife would arise among the church members, and hurt its influence. The primary functions of the church should therefore always be clearly kept in mind: to furnish the power, but not necessarily the machinery for social improvement. The policy of a given church organization should be determined by the needs of the community, what seems to be the best way of meeting these needs, and the measure of unanimity with which the church could take up a particular work for the social improvement of the community."

A study of the physical work in the churches of Chicago and suburbs make plain the fact that the church has proceeded along the line of need as outlined in this quotation, and that never in an organized way has any program of work been placed bodily upon any church. With few exceptions the work has begun on the inside and proceeded outward and not from the outside in. And quite necessarily so for two reasons: First, because owing to the primary religious objective of the church there has never been effect the organization of an administrative body to dictate or

initiate such steps or policy, and second, on account of the widely varying needs and resources of the very different church communities, each has had naturally to tackle its own questions in its own particular way. In some localities in Chicago the social and physical requirements of the community are amply met by other agencies while in others it has been found nothing short of obligatory for church forces to include this problem as their own at least for the time being, on account of inadequate or total lack of attention by secular organizations.

In the investigation already referred to, inquiries were made and replies received from churches representative of all the varying districts of the city and suburbs. The types of work may be grouped under two headings, equipment and non-equipment, and we shall designate the former as class A, and the latter as Class B. We shall first consider Class A churches, investigations of which were made by letter.

1. Olivet Memorial Church located at 1500 Hudson Ave., Minister Norman E. Barr. The work was begun twenty years ago but is not as large now as formerly owing to poorer building used. Equipment consists of a rented triangular hall equipped for indoor and basketball.

Enrollment for all groups in past year 268.

Supervision by men employed for part time. Had received training at Y. M. C. A. Salary twenty-five dollars per month.

In addition to the equipment work referred to, non-equipment work such as Boy Scouts, Camp-Fire girls, summer camps, and the use of other community facilities. Also outdoor baseball league. Program of years work was not in print. The work "has been on the whole successful, but limited for want of a proper building."

2. Irving Park Christian Church, Cullom and W. Kildare Avenues. Minister, W. G. Winn. The work, he says, has been unsuccessful. The equipment - a gymnasium. Supervision - volunteer. There have been five or six groups "in winter months" using the gymnasium. Type of work - "indoor gymnasium". Program - "work in winter only". The meager information given points to the lack of trained supervision as a probable cause of apparent failure. The further remark that lack of success has been due to "conflict between A.A.U. and A. A. F.", suggests the need of leadership acquainted with the handling of athletic administration.

3. Erie Chapel Institute, 1547 W. Erie, Minister, George J. Searles. This church admirably represents the institutional type of work. Equipment consists of gymnasium, baths, play-rooms, club-rooms, etc. "We have basement playrooms and a good first floor gymnasium as well as other rooms for our activities. Our playroom and gymnasium equipment does not amount to much." Number of people using the privileges. "We had 80,627 use the building last year, or "a daily average" excluding Saturday of 257.5.

Supervision is both by volunteer and employed officers. "The boys work director is a part time man getting from \$30 to \$45 per month depending on the man and time." The director of girls work receives \$70 per month. Her hours of work are not stated, but she is said to be "the best girls worker in the city."

Types of work carried on are "playrooms, clubs and classes, scouts, camp-fire girls, summer camps, daily vacation bible-school, gymnasium (mostly basket ball and indoor baseball)." The work on the whole has been very successful, girls work particularly so because of splendid paid leadership; boys work not so much on account of lack of

right leadership.

4. Englewood Baptist, Englewood and Stewart Avenues, Minister, S. T. Ford. Equipment - "Inadequate". Supervision - Volunteer. Training - University. Type of work carried on - Scouts, camp-fire girls, and summer camps, "meetings held in our own church building. Also organized Sunday school classes." The activities of the organized classes are not given.

5. New First Congregational Church, Washington and Ashland Blvds. B. F. Aldrich, Minister. Work "began about three years ago (1913) - has flourished quite well." "Have excellent gymnasium" and shower baths. Equipment of gymnasium is limited to wands, Indian clubs, dumb bells and mats: number and groups of people using privileges - "boys, girls, young men, young women, averaging 200 to 300 per month. Supervision consists of the director of parish house, a seminary trained man, and a part time Association college student. Salary of latter \$210 for seven months season.

Physical activities in addition to gymnasium classes - "scouts, camp-fire girls, and summer camps both for choirs and bible school members, indoor baseball, basket-ball, exhibitions and outdoor baseball in summer." States "that many school folk are not attracted because they have gymnasium work in school evidently sufficient."

CLASS B CHURCHES

6. Jackson Blvd Christian, 24th and Jackson Blvd, Austin Hunter, Minister. House adjoining the church is used as social center. Open to all church groups. Volunteer supervision. The work has not met with the results it should because of "lack of leadership and equipment."

7. Ravenswood Baptist, Sunnyside and N. Seeloy. F. E. Neel, Minister. "Building, two tennis courts on church grounds. Baseball team in Sunday school." Supervision - "volunteer committee."

8. Normal Park Baptist, 70th St. and Stewart Ave. Robert W. Van Kirk, Minister. Type of physical activities - "Baseball, basketball, indoor baseball, bikes. We use Sunday school room, one night a week for activities; no equipment." Volunteer supervision. Program of work "made month by month." Number and groups of people using privileges - "fifty or sixty men and boys, ages eight and up. The results of the work as a whole have been decidedly worth while."

9. Burr Mission, 23rd and Wentworth Ave. Thos. M. Porter, Minister. Non-equipment work. Manual training and scout work for boys. Cooking for girls. Part time employed supervision. Number and groups using privileges - twelve boys and fifteen girls. Work is meeting with satisfactory results.

10. Normal Park M. E., 71st St. and Union Ave., Charles J. Dickey, Minister. Physical work has been going two years. "The social rooms of the church are provided with basketball equipment for girls only." Further the "baseball and basket ball teams are equipped" and "use the Hamilton Park Field House." Baseball in summer and basket ball in winter comprise the years program. Supervision is volunteer. The work is "doing very well; we could do much more had we equipment."

The replies to each of the remaining questions of the investigation are grouped to facilitate their study.

In what way is Cook County Sunday School Association co-operating?

(1) "I believe in no way to my knowledge, except to allow us to enter

one of our teams." (2) "None". (3) "We have not been much in touch with them." (4) "None officially." (5) "Fosters athletics through leagues, both basket ball and baseball." (6 & 7) No reply. (8) "Cook county furnishes leagues for competitive activities that are a benefit. They are giving a program for non-competitive work that is of unquestioned value." (9) No reply. (10) "In baseball and basket ball - Cook County Sunday School athletics Association." Referring to the leagues which have been previously supervised by Cook County.

- a. Is the Young Men's Christian Association co-operating? How?
- b. Should the Young Men's Christian Association co-operate? How? (1) Yes, in allowing teams the occasional use of their equipment, etc."
- (2) a. "No". b. "By establishing a department in this section." (3) a. "We are not very near to a Y.M.C.A. but co-operate at times. The Y.M.C.A. because it is a club for a wealthier boy does not and can not appeal to our class of boys." b. No reply. (4) a. "No." b. "We do not need them."
- (5) a. "Offers to pay part membership fee for those who are actually deserving (members of our Bible school). This is probably offered to other church schools though haven't inquired." b. "Arrangement might be made so that swimming could be learned in winter months by young people who cannot take full membership in the 'Y'". (6) a. Yes. We have one or two classes in Physical training at West Side Y.M.C.A." b. "By use of equipment and directors." (7) a "No". b No reply. (8) a. "There is no Y.M.C.A. located in this neighbourhood." b. Yes. "In training leaders, the Y.M.C.A. can do and is doing a great service." (9) a. No reply b. "Yes." (10) a. "No" b. "No"

Is the key to the eventual solution of physical problems in the

hands of state or international organizations? (1) "Local rather than either, though both the above would help." (2) "No" (3) "It is a purely local affair." (4) No reply (5) "Cannot state as have not thought it out." (6 & 7) No reply. (8) "State". (9 & 10) No reply.

Does the physical work call for immediate attention? Why? (1) "Yes. To interest and hold young boys and men." (2) "Yes. To conserve our influence." (3) "Yes. Because we must get into closer touch with the young people of our churches and Bible schools and that affords best-point of contact." (6 & 7) No reply. (8) "The physical work is a means to an end and will always call for attention." (9) "Yes." (10) "We could do more had we equipment."

Has a local community census or field survey been taken? On file where? (1) "Yes. At the office." (2, 3, & 4) "No." (5) "Think not". (6 & 7) "No." (8) No reply (9) "No, not that I know." (10) "No."

What other problems are more acute? (1) "None in our work." (2) "Successful leadership" This is of course a part of the problem under discussion. (3) "We can get the crowds if we had the workers and money." (4, 5, 6 & 7) No reply. (8) "Our present economic and social basis." (9) No reply. (10) "Perhaps nothing is more urgent."

What is the attitude of your members on this question? b. Attitude of the denomination at large? c. What is the attitude of your seminary? d. What is your personal attitude toward a physical program? (1) a. "Mainly in favor." b. "Increasingly favorable." c. "Favorable." d. "Altogether favorable." (2) a. "Divided." b. "Favorable." c. "None." d. "Favorable, or to put it stronger than that we must have it." (4) a, b, c, d. "Favorable." (5) a. "They felt it strongly enough to

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build the present Parish House, which indicates something of their position in the matter." b. "Think it encourages athletic work, evidenced by building of gymnasiums, and where none can be built, many make use of rooms as they are for athletic work." c. "Does not take a prominent position. Rather tolerant I should say - or neutral." d. "In a brief phrase - "I am strong for it" because it certainly is the best contact with young life - older people also for that matter. One really learns to know people in the recreations." (6) a. "Largely indifferent." b. "Disinterested." c. "Indifferent." d. "A very needed thing." (7) a & b "Friendly." c. "Rochester, just considering." d. "Favorable." (8) a & b. "Not aware." c. "No attitude" d. "I think the church should be concerned in the matter." (9) a. "Good." b & c. No reply. d. "All right." (10) a. "Some are aggressive, others indifferent." b. "Convinced of the need." c. No reply. d. "Thoroughly in accord."

(11) Hyde Park Baptist Church, "The strong conviction of our church is that it is its own duty, and that of every Christian church, to provide physical and recreational opportunities, wherever these are not offered by other agencies."

Upon whom does the responsibility for meeting the physical and recreational needs of the community belong? (1) "The home, school, church, and the City authorities." (2) "The churches." (3) "We have a city playground three blocks from us, but the church has a big place to fill here." (4) "School and church." (5) "Upon every one alike, I should say - not upon one group. The church should realize what its part is and then do the work." (6) "The City." (7) "The churches and public." (8) "Upon the community, but in the meantime the church should be concerned in the

matter." (9) "The pastor." (10) "Will not place the entire responsibility, but I should like to see the church a leader in this as in every other effort to improve and uplift the community life."

The replies above unite in saying that the church is at least partly responsible for meeting the physical need of the community. Dr. George J. Fisher in "Sunday School and Teens" (p. 241) says, "that physical education has not been seriously considered as a legitimate part of religious education, but that to adequately promote character-building the physical basis of character must be considered and proper ethics developed and taught by the church."

If it is up to the church to meet these needs, what recommendations would you suggest for constructing an adequate program? "So far as it is up to the church, the church should provide at least for its own and those in its immediate community, who could best be served by it; the program to fit the local situation. In my own judgment each church should have its own physical equipment as far as possible, where populations are dense. In communities where population is light the churches should join, perhaps through the Y.M.C.A. in furnishing equipment."

(2) "Aggressive co-operation." (3) "It is up to the church in a large measure. (4) We should have the gymnasium and swimming pool facilities with adequate christian directorship and a wonderful work could be done." (5) "More liberal policy both of money and workers. The confidence and support of the church can best be secured by the directors of these auxiliary organizations maintaining a sympathetic response to the high ideals and spiritual methods of the church. Care must be exercised that conditions are not introduced that are contrary to the policy of the

church, and stimulating tastes that draw the young into questionable places where they can have larger opportunity for gratification." (6) "Possibly the forming of an athletic committee would be the first move to make," it being their job "to study the actual needs of the particular field and its resources, and then plan accordingly. I have made no study of this so have no clearly defined plan to give." (7) "I think this work belongs primarily to the city. In the failure of the city to make such provisions it is up to the church to do all it can. These things can best be done, not through a denomination, or a single congregation, but in some united way, and it seems to me an ideal way is through the city. Most churches are handicapped by lack of both equipment and directors." (8) No reply. (9) "All organizations regardless of denomination, should come together as a unit and construct a scientific program, simple enough to work and yet comprehensive enough to be of more than passing value, and then the organizations should stick to their knitting and really work the program and not waste time and talk in criticism of each other's work." (10) "Cannot say. One would require to see our field and talk the matter over before arriving at anything definite." (11) "It isn't entirely up to the church. It is up to the city, public schools, intelligent citizens. The churches feel their responsibility and are slowly endeavoring to meet it. Slowly, I say, because the feeling of this need itself is recent, at least made imperative by our congested city life - but few churches are constructed or organized to meet new conditions. There is a tendency even among non-church supporters to throw all responsibility on the churches already burdened, and to blame the churches for every failure to reach the ideal. I believe the

churches should awake to the need of taking care of the recreational and physical welfare of its own young people. But the problem is larger than that and should involve the co-operation of the entire community, organized around our municipal parks (say) as centers, and the churches and schools represented in and co-operating with some sort of council to standardize and direct the recreational and physical activities of the community."

Quotation is made at length from report on Hyde Park Baptist Church. Mr. Charles W. Gilkey, the minister, writes: "We are situated in a residential community of business and professional people of moderate means within easy reach of two great city parks and under the very shadow of the University. Our community has more than its share of public and private institutions taking a large interest in recreation. Our public schools particularly the new Hyde Park high school, have every facility along this line; our Hyde Park YMOA is similarly well equipped and active; and Hyde Park Center (a settlement) ministers effectively to the needs of what otherwise might be the least well supplied corner of our community. Under these somewhat unusual circumstances both study and experience have gone to show that our church is not called upon to assume a large responsibility for the physical and recreational welfare of the community..... five years ago our older boys were eager for larger opportunities for gymnastic work and play. The transformation of our prayer-meeting room into a sort of gymnasium had even been suggested. It seemed to some of us much better, and it proved easy, to make arrangements with the Hyde Park Y.M.C.A. whereby our boys' club, developing later into our Boy's Department, should use their gymnasium and pool one day a week. For three or four years this arrangement was continued with mutual satisfaction and

success. Since the new Hyde Park High school was erected, however, with its fine gymnasium and prescribed work, our boys have shown so little interest in or desire for such work outside of school and Y.M.C.A. classes that it has been plainly advisable to give up this arrangement as no longer needed. The InterKSunday school athletic league promoted for several seasons by the Hyde Park Y.M.C.A., has also been given up for the same good reason - lack of real interest - by the boys in its maintenance, due to the abundance of other recreational opportunities and requirements.

Our experience with the Boy Scouts and camp-fire girls has been much the same. We maintained clubs of both for two or three years until it became plain that in a community like ours, where so much is done for our boys and girls by church, school, city and homes, it required more effort to keep up such work than the resulting benefits are worth. ----- We have taken some of our boys and girls to separate camps in a least two other years, and may do so again in the future. ----- Our young women's class has been holding a special class in gymnastic dancing once a week since mid-winter. We shall continue to watch for other similar opportunities and needs as they arise.

In other sections of the city where the need is greater and the opportunities less, we are seeking to train our young people for active service, and to put them to work. Several are at work in stock yards district under the direction of United Charities and others are helping to maintain clubs and classes in a branch church in South Chicago."

More than twenty-five additional churches were personally investigated more or less fully by the writer. In several it was his

privilege to act in the capacity of physical instructor in two equipped churches and through part time service as physical director in a community department of the Young Men's Christian Association. This experience together with information received from other direct sources furnishes additional data with which this thesis deals.

Before proceeding to deductions and conclusions it would be well to enumerate the agencies having to do with the physical work program of the churches and to obtain an understanding of their policies and methods.

1. The International Sunday school Association, Chicago Office: 14th Floor Mailers Building, Madison St. and Wabash Ave., operates in all North America, organizing, promoting and advising in regard to all phases of Sunday school work. Mr. John L. Alexander is superintendent of the Secondary or Teen-age division. The work in all divisions has the four-fold development aim - physical, social, mental and religious. This body is promoting the excellent idea of the organization of all teen-age groups in classes which shall meet not only on Sunday but on week-days for "thru-the-week activities." Leaflets are published giving an extensive list of suggestive indoor and outdoor activities.

2. The Cook County Sunday School Association is an organization quite similar in aim and activity to the International Sunday School Association, but their efforts are confined to Cook County Illinois solely. There are almost one thousand Sunday schools within its territory. It would be interesting to trace the history of the activities which this Association has carried on during its fifty-seven years of organized work. We cannot undertake to do that in this study, but it is significant to see

what rapid changes are recently taking place in the physical side of its work, or in the department now known as the secondary division. Some of its working principles are: Its aim is to find out what the Sunday Schools need and to help supply that need. (2) The organized Sunday school class forms the working basis. (3) Any movement (as Scouts, Camp-fire girls, etc.) is recognized as a movement only in so far as its activities fit into the activities of the organized Sunday school class. (4) Activities must be utilized in seeking to develop the young people already in the Sunday schools. (5) Activities may be divided into two great divisions: Mass activities, and group or gang activities. At present the Y. M. C. A. may well be considered responsible for mass activities; the Sunday School for group activities.

General principles as stated by the International Sunday School Association and Cook County Association: "It is the business of every Sunday school to see that every boy and girl receives adequate training for physical as well as social, mental, and religious development and that the policy of having one team of stars at the expense of the development of the rank and file of the membership is to be regretted. An adequate program is a program that gives every boy in the teen age the physical development that will help him to live his life rightly among his fellows." John M. Alexander.

The rank and file of boys and girls must be reached by a non-equipment policy through the Sunday schools. Equipment can only be used under expert supervision. Only the church out of the ordinary can meet the equipment task.

1. No institution has any right to put out a first team squad of experts unless they are furnishing training for their whole membership

in athletics sufficient to fill up the ranks of the first team squad and prevent the necessity of going outside to find material. To provide this training paid trained supervision is absolutely necessary.

2. This paid trained supervision of massed activities is being admirably furnished by Y.M.C.A. community centers, public playgrounds, and sometimes by carefully planned and financed institutional churches, and the average church has no business attempting it without having its eyes open to these three facts: a. Furnishing such mass activities will not do away with the responsibility of the church for volunteer supervision of through-the-week group or class life of its boys and girls for their four-fold development. b. No church has a right to undertake such a plan unless it is impossible to arrange a co-operative community plant. c. The expense of conducting such an equipment requires an adequate budget or else the equipment will fall into the hands of "rough-nicks" or selfish cliques, resulting in discrediting the whole program of physical activities for boys and girls section."

"Mass activities are the job of the community. The job of the church is to furnish adult leaders for group-life - where boys can live with each other in all round (natural) interests incident to their home and neighborhood." From interview with Burr Blackburn.

"Organized Bible classes should be practically feeders of Young men to co-operate through the Young Men's Christian Association in all kinds of work."

SUMMARY

The percentage of churches in this territory having gymnasium equipment is very small. Five percent would probably be a high estimate.

Of this group of churches the percentage accomplishing an efficient piece of work is similarly small - five percent. The need, advantages, and goal of equipment work have already been named. On the other side there are disadvantages and dangerous tendencies which must be combated, avoided and overcome.

1. The church which is provided with equipment has an advantage over its neighbor churches in its appeal to the young people of the community. Some are certain to desert their own denomination and join the church that possesses the wider attractions. The result is inevitably feelings of jealousy and accusations of proselytizing, which may not be overcome in some cases even with attempts at a common understanding and working together of the various denominations in the community.

2. The mistake is almost always made of giving memberships to the equipment privileges free or at a very low fee. The members gradually resolve themselves perhaps unwittingly into a selfish clique, coming for only what they can get, not what they can give, interested in themselves and no one else, and consequently less loyal to church and their own personal ideals than before equipment privileges were provided. This condition may be traced in many instances to the lack of proper leadership and supervision. Adequate leadership is a first essential in any kind of successfully pursued activity and is the capstone in a program of physical education. This leadership in Chicago has been largely furnished by students from the departments of physical education and secretaryship in the Young Men's Christian Association College of Chicago as well as students from other schools - seminaries and universities - and by the official city associations. During the last few years the community departments of

the Y.M.C.A. have been co-operating with the churches in ways which have been heartily commended by church officials.

4. The danger of stressing the already popular sports and activities and of forgetting the equally important perhaps more important task of providing for instruction in personal hygiene and health.

5. The dangers involved in following the athletic policies and methods of other institutions instead of facing and working out the whole problem in a practical and satisfactory way.

SUGGESTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. There must be further and more thorough co-operation with Cook County S. S. Association. The secondary division of this organization has virtually just begun to touch the problem. They have had a paid director of physical activities for but one year. In that time the trend of athletic leagues has swung from the obsolete star idea to that "everybody-in-the-game." The athletic leagues instead of being organized and supervised by the Cook County officials are now organized independently by districts, the initiative being assumed by the local man where it belongs.

Sunday schools should effect better organization. This should include the appointing of a physical department committee and the establishment of all individual Bible classes on a well-organized basis.

There are over one thousand Sunday Schools in Cook County. The Cook County Office, invaluable in its advisory and co-operative relations, must be supported and additional secretarial force should be demanded. Thousands of dollars are being raised for the Y.M.C.A., for Boy Scouts, and for other worthy purposes. Is it not time for the Sunday Schools to

got to work in a way that will more nearly measure up to the physical needs of its membership?

The three training centers which have been promoted within the last four or five years, one on the north side, one on the west side, and one on the south side are accomplishing much. Sessions are held weekly or for a period of weeks with courses of study arranged. Such topics as child psychology, bible study, sociology, and general activities are covered. Under the latter title coaching in the conducting of indoor games for various occasions is involved. This course was given in one center by the community department of the Y.M.C.A. When the spring months came on, the groups were shown how to conduct outdoor games, overnight hikes, and other outdoor activities. These training centers are proving valuable and are being further developed intensively and extensively. Of course, with this broader development there will be necessary increased leadership both paid and volunteer, and this means a larger budget and more careful and inclusive committee organization.

Quoting again from Dr. Fisher in the "Sunday School and the Teens" (p. 242), "where the churches have sustained a co-operative relation to the Young Men's Christian Association, trained leaders and experienced workmen have been available for the direction of such activities." More extensive co-operation is advocated and the suggestion made "that the Young Women's Christian Association sustain the same relation to work among young women and girls." In Chicago owing to the existing organization of the Y.W.C.A. such co-operation is hampered, but there are other means of procedure which are and may be utilized for the great needs among women and girls.

Again Dr. Fisher says, "Any attempt at furnishing physical exercise or of conducting athletics must be done in harmony physiologic principles. Serious harm may come to those who are under injudicious management. To this end a trained director may be supplemented by a medical staff. Physicians in the membership of local churches, if properly approached, are usually willing to serve on a medical staff and report upon the physical condition of each entrant for physical privileges. Preliminary medical examinations are essential if the work is to be scientific." This step in organization has been effected and is accomplishing much good in one of Chicago's churches. It is a step which perhaps half of the city's churches could well carry out at once. There is need for it when we realize that some boys will join a half dozen organizations equipped for basket ball in order to spend practically all of their spare time at this strenuous sport. Who can better assume responsibility for the supervision of that boy's physical condition, under the present conditions, than the church?

I would take the liberty of referring for further recommendations regarding physical work, and especially for procedure in health instruction and particularly sex education, to those made by Dr. Fisher on the page above referred to and following. In the same chapter an excellent list of books for study along these lines, and a plan of organization for a department of hygiene and physical education are given. It seems to me that no where else in Chicago is there greater need than in the field under discussion, and that in no other city in our land are there the available forces to be requisitioned and put in use as may be found at our command. Here is a place where hundreds and thousands of individuals

may be appointed to places for work for the church. We know that next to winning individuals to the acceptance of Christ comes the task of finding a job for that individual. There are numbers of men and women in our churches exceptionally well qualified to assume the leadership of the play life of boys and girls. We believe that the situation is more and more surely being comprehended and met. Let us in keeping with the present world-wide spirit of preparedness seek more fully to realize the obligations that rest upon us and let us utilize and organize the forces that are ours for winning the battles of a peace-loving, peace-advocating community and nation.

The End.

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